

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 SCI-06 NSC-07 AEC-11 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 110420Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8174

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SUVA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NZ FR

SUBJ: FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

BEGIN SUMMARY. NZ REACTIONS TO FRENCH TESTING MUCH MORE
SUBDUED THIS YEAR THAN LAST, BEING GENERALLY
LIMITED TO OFFICIAL PROTEST TO GOF. LACK OF REACTION
REFLECTS PUBLIC APATHY AND GNZ DESIRE NOT ANTAGONIZE
FRANCE WITH DELICATE EEC NEGOTIATIONS UPCOMING. END
SUMMARY.

1. NZ REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS
TO BE RESUMED HAS BEEN GENERALLY LOW KEY. PM KIRK HAS
SUMMONED FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO MEETING THIS AFTERNOON AND
WILL BE GIVING HIM OFFICIAL PROTEST NOTE TO FORWARD TO
PARIS. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO SEND PROTEST SHIPS TO MURUROA.

2. FEDERATION OF LABOUR (FOL) KEEPING QUIET ON ITS PLANS,
BUT EXPECTS MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT LATER THIS WEEK. ANY
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FOL ACTION EXPECTED TO BE COORDINATED WITH AUSTRALIAN LABOR

MOVEMENT. LIKELIHOOD IS THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN WILL NOT BE VERY EFFECTIVE.

3. PROTEST YACHT FRIE PRESENTLY IN NZ FOR REPAIRS. WHEN SEAWORTHY, SHE IS EXPECTED TO SAIL ON A VOYAGE DELIVERING PROTEST NOTES AT VARIOUS SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS. SHE IS NOT EXPECTED ATTEMPT TO ENTER TEST ZONE.

4. COMMENT. FAILURE TO MOUNT GREATER PROTEST RESULTS FROM INCREASED PRAGMATISM ON PART OF GNZ AND GENERAL STATE OF PUBLIC APATHY CONCERNING TESTS. WITH IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS YEAR, GNZ DOES NOT WANT TO ANTAGONIZE GOF. DISPATCHING OF PROTEST FRIGATE IN 1973 STRETCHED NAVAL RESOURCES TO OUTER LIMITS AND WAS CLEARLY A ONE-SHOT EFFORT. ALSO, WITH NUCLEAR TEST CASE BEFORE WORLD COURT, GNZ, CALLING ON FRANCE TO OBEY THE RULE OF LAW, WANTS TO DO NOTHING TO ENDANGER ITS CHANCES FOR FAVORABLE DECISION. PUBLIC APATHY PROBABLY RESULTS FROM LET DOWN AFTER LAST YEAR'S "BIG GAME". FRENCH DETERMINATION TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS YEAR'S TESTS, AND PROBABILITY THAT FUTURE TESTS WILL BE UNDERGROUND, ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO FEELING THAT NZ POINT HAS BEEN MADE AND THERE LITTLE MORE THAT CAN USEFULLY BE DONE.
SELDEN

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30 JUN 2005

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